

10/018730

PATENT

P02353US0

18 DEC 2001

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Pre
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531 Rec'd PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: §
 Luet Lok Wong §
 Jonathan Peter Jones §
 Serial No.: Unassigned § Attorney Dkt: HO-P02353US0
 Filed: Herewith § Group Art Unit: Unassigned
 For: PROCESS FOR OXIDISING § Examiner: Unassigned
 AROMATIC COMPOUNDS §

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX: PCT
 Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment to accompany the U.S. National Phase filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT/GB00/02379, international filing date June 19, 2000, with priority claim to June 18, 1999 (GB 9914373.7). This Amendment substitutes the claims to be examined.

AMENDMENT

~~IN THE CLAIMS:~~

Ryle 1.1.26
 Please cancel ~~claims 1-19~~ of the PCT application and substitute in their place the below-presented claims 1-18:

20
~~1~~ Process for oxidising a halo aromatic substrate which has more than one halogen atom, which process comprises oxidising said substrate with a monooxygenase enzyme, wherein a ring carbon of the substrate is oxidised.

21
~~2~~ Process according to claim ~~1~~ in which the enzyme comprises a substitution of an amino acid in the active site by an amino acid with a less polar side-chain.

22
~~3~~ Process according to claim ~~2~~ in which the enzyme comprises one or more other amino acid substitutions in the active site.